

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3921

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

CINCLANT

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF AO

SUBJ: WHITES ASK FOR HELP TO GET OUT OF ANGOLA

1. A CROWD ESTIMATED AT BETWEEN 5,000 AND 10,000 PEOPLE, BUT WHICH LOOKED TO ME TO BE ABOUT 2,000 ARRIVED IN FRONT OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL AT NOON ON AUGUST 4. THEY CARRIED BANNERS IMPLOING THE WORLD FOR HELP AND SOME WHICH EXPRESSED THEIR LOVE FOR THE UNITED STATES. THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY VISITED THE BRAZILIAN AND FRENCH CONSULATES. A DELEGATION OF TWO MEN CAME UP TO SEE ME.

2. THE WHITES WANT THREE THINGS: FIRSTLY, TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT SO THAT IT WILL PROVIDE ADEQUATE TRANSPORTATION FOR THOSE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO RETURN TO PORTUGAL; SECOND, TO OBTAIN SUFFICIENT VESSELS TO CARRY BACK THEIR POSSESSIONS, ESPECIALLY AUTOMOBILES; THIRD, INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW IT TO DO THE JOB.

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3. ACCORDING TO THE MEN, THERE ARE NOW SO MANY WHITES DEMANDING

REPATRIATION BEFORE INDEPENDENCE DAY ON NOVEMBER 1 THAT THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT ALONE CANNOT DO THE JOB. NATIONS LIKE THE UNITED STATES MUST PROVIDE PLANES AND PERSONNEL.

4. THE ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND TAP, THE PORTUGUESE AIRLINE, HAVE LED WHITES TO CONCLUDE THAT THE PORTUGUESE ARE NOT AT ALL INTERESTED IN REPATRPATING LARGE NUMBERS OF THEM. ONLY A FEW PEOPLE ARE EVER AT WORK AT THE TAP INSTALLATIONS AND PEOPLE WAIT IN LINE FOR HOURS AND DAYS TO GET TICKETS CONFIRMED. THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO DO EVERYTHING IT CAN, THEY SAID, TO PREVENT AN INFLUX OF WHITES FROM ANGOLA IN ORDER NOT TO AGGRAVATE PROBLEMS BACK IN THE METROPOLIS. THE GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY BELIEVES THAT IF IT CAN STALL LONG ENOUGH THE PROBLEM WILL EITHER GO AWAY OR THE WHITES WILL FIND SOME ALTERNATE DESTINATION - BRAZIL OR SOME OTHER COUNTRY.

5. I TOLD THE SPOKESMEN THAT THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT HAS SAID IT WILL MOVE AHEAD WITH AN EXPANDED PROGRAM TO MOVE UP TO 3,000 PEOPLE A DAY. THEY SAID THEY DO NOT BELIEVE IT. THE PORTUGUESE WILL DO NOTHING UNLESS PRESSURED. I TOLD THEM I WOULD TALK WITH THE HIGH

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE TO GET FURTHER DETAILS AND TO REPORT THE VISIT TO THE CONSULATE OF SEVERAL THOUSAND PEOPLE. I ALSO SAID I WOULD INFORM MY GOVERNMENT OF THEIR CONCERNS, BUT I EMPHASIZED THAT SUCH MATTERS ARE THE EXCLUSIVE PROVINCE OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. IF THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT PROVED UNABLE TO DO THE JOB AND TURNED TO US FOR HELP, I WAS QUITE CERTAIN WE WOULD TRY AND HELP, ALONG WITH OTHER NATIONS, BUT ADDED, THE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT ONLY PUBLICLY RECOGNIZED THE PROBLEM, THEY ARE MOVING AHEAD TO RESOLVE IT.

6. THE DELEGATION SAID THAT WHAT THEY WERE REALLY INTERESTED IN WAS PRESS COVERAGE AND INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION SO THAT THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT WOULD INDEED, INSTITUTE ADEQUATE MEASURES TO REPATRIATE EVERYONE THAT WANTS TO GO.

7. WHEN I STEPPED TO THE BALCONY TO WAVE TO THE CROWD THEY GAVE A TREMENDOUS CHEER AND THREE VISAS FOR THE UNITED STATES. THEY WERE ORDERLY, NOT AT ALL BELLIGERENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND DISPERSED IMMEDIATELY AFTER BEING INFORMED BY THEIR SPOKESMEN OF THE TALK WITH THE U.S. CONSUL GENERAL.

8. I THINK THE USA MIGHT USEFULLY ASK THE PORTUGUESE IF THERE IS ANYTHING OF A TECHNICAL NATURE WE CAN DO TO HELP ENSURE THE AIR BRIDGE THEY ARE PLANNING COMES OFF SMOOTHLY. I WILL REPORT DETAILS OF THE PLAN SHORTLY.
KILLORAN

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